(b) whether Government has given its consent to the proposal of Government of Punjab to share a major part of the maintenance and upgradation cost of the strategic roads in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (b) No such request has been received. Department of Road Transport and Highways is not concerned with such declaration.

Reconstruction of Paradeep Port

2721. SHRI ANANTA SETHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on the renovation and reconstruction of Paradeep Port which was extensively damaged due to cyclone;

(b) the details of the damage caused to that port and the progress of work as on date;

(c) the expansion and technological upgradation plan formulated if any for Paradeep Port; and

(d) the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked therefor for Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) & (b) : The estimated damage to the Paradeep Port Trust due to cyclone is Rs. 68.5 crores. An amount of Rs. 24.40 crores (approx.) has been spent on immediately reconstruction and rehabilitation works.

(c) & (d) : The expansion and technological upgradation of all Major Ports including Paradeep Port is a continuous process and works are undertaken as per the requirement of traffic and availability of resources. During the Ninth Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1200.00 crores has been approved for technological upgradation and development of the Port.

Enhancement of Road Safety on NH. 5

2722. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHAI has refused to implement a number of suggestions for road safety in different sectors of National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh;